

1-800-FASCIST: THE CANADIAN LIBERTY NET

WHAT IS THE CANADIAN LIBERTY NET?

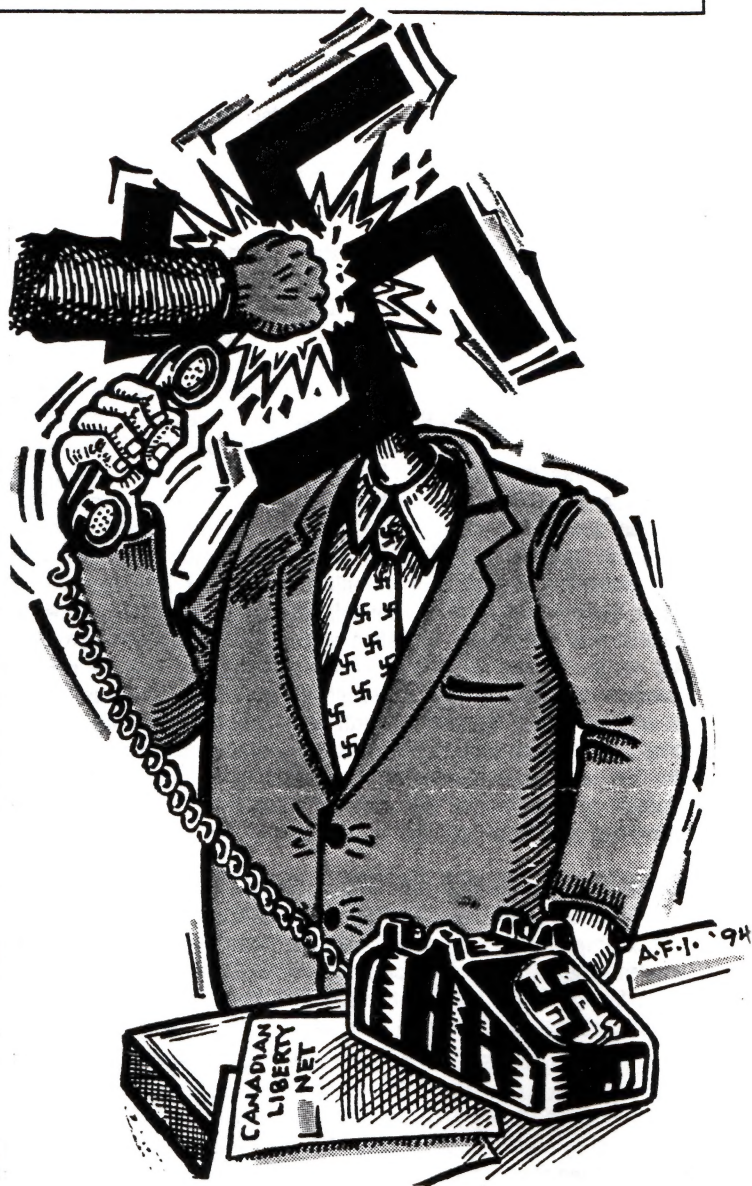
The most visibly active of the Vancouver-area fascist movement, the Canadian Liberty Net (CLN) is not so much an organization as it is a telephone 'hateline'. Its main purpose is to act as a recruiting and communications tool for the local fascist scene in Vancouver. It is closely connected to the Aryan Resistance Movement (ARM) in the BC lower mainland, the Council on Public Affairs in the Salmon Arm area of BC; nationally to groups such as the Heritage Front, Ernst Zundel, Aryan Nations; and internationally to the National Alliance and, in particular, Tom Metzger's White Aryan Resistance (WAR).

Started in October 1991, the CLN billed itself as Canada's "first computer-operated voice messaging centre to promote cultural and racial awareness amongst white people." While hardly the first such white supremacist telephone line in Canada, the CLN did begin with a sophisticated set-up; according to Warren Kinsella's book *Web of Hate*, Tony McAleer, operator of the CLN, purchased a soft-ware package called Big Mouth for \$350. McAleer told Kinsella, "All I needed was a lot of hard-drive space, and I had that. It didn't cost all that much. But it cost me \$10,000 to buy a decent computer" (p. 57, *Web of Hate*). Callers to the CLN could choose from a menu of various anti-Semitic messages, anti-non-European immigration rants and broadcasts from other white supremacist groups such as WAR, the Toronto-based Heritage Front, Holocaust denial propagandist Ernst Zundel (also of Toronto), Aryan Nations of Alberta, and others. Callers were also given the addresses for these and other fascist groups as well as sources of fascist literature. In December 1991, an investigator with the Canadian Human Rights Commission monitored the line from December 12-15 (inclusive). The investigator summarized the content:

"13. (...) The selection of messages appeared to be identical each time. The system is structured as follows:

- a) A taped voice introduces the Canadian Liberty Net, a computer-operated message line. The voice says that those people who would be offended by the contents should exit the system and not call back.
- b) The system then offers a "menu" of messages, selectable with a touch-tone telephone. The "main menu" offers "Leadership", "History", "Miscellaneous Messages," and "Leave a Message."
- c) "Leadership" offers Canadian and American messages.
- d) In one of the two Canadian messages, an update is provided regarding the Munich trial of Ernst [Zundel]. The other message is from the "Heritage Front," which opposes the problems that "aliens" bring to Canada, giving a Toronto box number where listeners can write for more material.
- e) There were three American leadership messages. The first is from the National Alliance, based in West Virginia. This group attributes western civilization to white people who kept their superior race apart from the many tribes and races of "sub-men" who threaten the existence of whites via race-mixing. The second message is from Tom Metzger of White Aryan Resistance [WAR], who self-censors his messages and includes a California postal address, from which Metzger states he can smuggle in some "free speech" across the border. The third message is from Fred Leuchter, ["an expert on execution technology"], who claims that he has been victimized by a conspiracy to destroy his credibility because of his previous testimony about Auschwitz, Berkenau etc.].
- f) The "History Menu" contains two messages, both denying the Holocaust [or, at least, the numerical extent of the Nazis' victims].
- h) The "Leave a Message" selection connects the caller to a voice-mail box for the Canadian Liberty Net."

(from a March 3/92 Federal Court of Canada hearing against the CLN, applied for by the Canadian Human Rights Commission).



With the computerized system, callers could be on-line for a half hour or more. By early 1992, the Liberty Net was reportedly "logging hundred of daily phone calls from committed racists and curiosity-seekers. Some of the calls were coming from great distances- in a few cases, as far away as the United Kingdom" (p. 57, *Web of Hate*). Today, however, the CLN computer-operated message line is gone, replaced by a regular answering machine with one message. This may be partly due to various court appearances and human rights hearings held by the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HEARINGS

In December 1991, the Canadian Jewish Congress requested that the BC Attorney-General investigate the CLN. As a result of complaints by the CJC and the Committee for Racial Justice, the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) held a tribunal in February 1992 to determine if the line, then operated by a Derek Peterson (a pseudonym for McAleer) violated Section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which prohibits spreading hate messages by telephone. The Commission also sought

court injunction to prohibit the CLN from "promoting hatred." In March/92, a federal court injunction ordered the CLN to stop transmitting hate messages. This however, did not stop the CLN from operating as such, and in July/92, it was once again in court for referring callers to a Washington state number, a possible violation of the March injunction. At this time, Tony McAleer was named as the operator of the CLN, and he remains that today. The extreme right in BC was quick to show its support for their fellow propagandist. During the trial, he was defended by Doug Christie, a well known Victoria-based lawyer who has a long history of defending members of the extreme right, including Holocaust revisionists Jim Keegstra and Ernst Zundel. As well, the Salmon Arm Council on Public Affairs carried defense articles for the CLN in its publication. On Aug. 26/92, McAleer was found guilty and sentenced to two months in prison and fined \$2,500. The CLN was also fined \$5,000.

While the CHRC was deliberating on the 1992 tribunal, another complaint was lodged in April/93. The focus of this complaint was the CLN's promotion of hatred against Gays and Lesbians. On one message, McAleer noted approvingly that ancient Celts would supposedly "take queers and trample them into peat bogs." This tribunal began Jan. 24/94, and was the first time that the Commission held a hearing in a case "alleging hatred against homosexuals." At the time the complaint was made, the phone line was listed under a Harry Vaccaro of Surrey (a suburb of Vancouver). On January 27/94, the CHRC ruled that a message on the Liberty Net phone line in January/93 contravened section 13(1) of the Human Rights Act (this section states that it is a discriminatory practise to communicate by telephone "any matter that is likely to expose a person or persons to hatred or contempt" on the basis of a prohibited ground of discrimination). Once again, McAleer and the CLN were defended by Doug Christie, whose line of defense was that sexual orientation was not protected by the Human Rights Act nor the Charter of Rights. Another defense was that the message in question was directed against pedophiles, and in any case wasn't meant to be serious. Again, the CLN was ordered to stop promoting hate through its telephone messages, but as the CHRC has no powers to shut down the line, the CLN was hardly affected by the verdict. If found to violate this order, McAleer can be charged with criminal contempt of court, which carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE LIBERTY NET

In January 1993, the CLN attempted to break out of the phone business with a proposed public meeting featuring Tom Metzger of WAR. Various articles appeared in the local press and on television news; the main selling point for the media was, of course, Tom Metzger. In the end, only 25 fascists, almost all boneheads, showed up for the meeting. Metzger himself was nowhere to be seen, his scheduled appearance was most probably used to gain media publicity. Three thousand protesters gathered at the Vancouver Art Gallery and, when the location of the CLN's meeting was learned of by militant anti-fascists, 4-500 people left the main demonstration and besieged the hotel where the gathering was occurring. Only with police protection and some very fast running did the fascists escape. This ambitious project proved to be a total defeat for McAleer and his Liberty Net.

During the Spring of 1993, a message line for WAR, with recorded messages by Tom Metzger, was established in Vancouver. Callers to the CLN were referred to the WAR line. In December of 1993, both the Liberty Net and the WAR line were in the news for breaking a publication ban imposed on the Karla Teale trial, a ban that was ordered by an Ontario judge after Karla Teale was convicted of manslaughter in the sex slayings of two young women. The gag was intended to give her husband, Paul Teale, a fair trial when he goes to court on two first-degree murder charges. Callers to the Liberty Net heard an editorial about "freedom of speech" and were then referred to the WAR line. There, Tom Metzger revealed details from Karla Teale's trial on some of the activities that Karla and Paul Teale carried out in the killings of the young women.

TONY MCALEER

Current operator of the CLN, Tony McAleer is a 26 year old aspiring "fuhrer". McAleer was born on August 25, 1967, in England. He grew up in Canada and, in 1982, spent some time in his birthplace where he reportedly became more inclined to right-wing extremism by his associates



The Province

Tony (potato head) McAleer

(Nazi bonheads). He has been involved in fascist circles for many years, but only in the last 3-4 years has he stepped forward as a self-styled "leader". Prior to this involvement with the CLN, McAleer was just another fascist skinhead. In 1989, when the Aryan Nations began organizing in and around Vancouver, McAleer and several other local boneheads joined in and attended an Aryan Nations gathering at the compound of Richard Butler, Church of Jesus Christ Christians in Hayden Lake, Idaho. This is also the base for Aryan Nations, which Butler founded in 1979 as the political wing of the Church. McAleer was a founding member, together with Scott Graham, of the Aryan Resistance Movement. In February/90, he was charged, along with Barry Lee Wray and former Ku Klux Klan leader Hooper, with assault during an ARM leafletting adventure in Vancouver. His current profession as a bug exterminator (!) brought McAleer into the news once again in November/93 when, setting up to spray an apartment building, he was recognized by one of the tenants. The residents, almost all people of colour, refused him entry. Said one, "It upsets me. How ironic that he killing cockroaches! The guy's sick" (*The Province*, Nov. 21/94).

On April 12/94, Tony McAleer, together with John Metzger, son of Tom Metzger, were flown to Germany by the Los Angeles radio station KFI, the largest talk-show station in LA with audiences of up to 1.8 million. The radio station had planned to "broadcast phone-in talk shows around meetings by Metzger and McAleer with German neo-Nazis in Munich and tour of the Auschwitz death camp site in Poland" (*The Vancouver Sun*, Apr. 27/94). The radio station reportedly hoped that McAleer and Metzger would "repent after their Auschwitz visit." However, all plans were disrupted when German police arrested the two as they disembarked in Frankfurt. They were fingerprinted, photographed, strip-searched and interrogated, then put on flight to Chicago. There, McAleer was held in jail for one night and flown to Vancouver. According to newspaper reports, "Germany barred McAleer and Metzger after its consulate-general in Los Angeles fielded a number of complaints."

The talk-show fiasco, the proposed Metzger meeting of January/93 and the operating of a WAR line in Vancouver all highlight McAleer's close ties to the Metzgers and their White Aryan Resistance.

TOM METZGER & WAR

A former 'grand dragon' of the Ku Klux Klan in California, Tom Metzger is the 54-year old founder and leader of the White Aryan Resistance. Based in Fallbrook, Ca., WAR was one of the more dynamic fascist organizations that developed and grew during the 1980s. Adopting a 'pan-Aryan' perspective that sought to replace state-nationalism with an essentially 'white nationalist' ideology, WAR puts forward a 'Third Positionist' politic. In theory, the Third Position is opposed to both capitalism and communism, a supposed "third way" that seeks to overthrow the US federal government and the control of multinational corporations, and establish a white separatist nation, leaving other nations/peoples to live autonomously. As with many other white supremacist groups, the genocidal plans envisioned for people of colour and Jewish people are couched in terms that obscure their true intent, such as pursuing a white separatist nation right alongside other races, who will also live in separate little lands. To this end, Metzger has even spoken at a Nation of Islam rally in California. At times, Metzger downplays anti-Semitism, straying from the generally accepted notion of the extreme right that the world is controlled by Jews, and the US by a 'Zionist Occupational Government', and instead targets "white race traitors" in the government. The reality is more clearly expressed in WAR's newspaper and practise, where Jews are an especially hated group who not only control the world financial system but also direct the "mud races" (ie. people of colour). Tom Metzger, along with his son John, were very successful in tapping into the growth of fascist skinheads that occurred in the mid to late '80s. WAR's attraction to boneheads was its militancy in pursuing white supremacy and its advocacy of 'racist violence'. In 1990, Metzger was found guilty of inciting two WAR skins who beat 27-year old Ethiopian student Mulugeta Seraw to death on November 13/88, in Portland, Oregon. Metzger was ordered to personally pay \$5 million of a \$12.5-million (US) judgement against WAR.



Tony McAleer as an ARM skin, 1989



WAR graphics from the organization's paper

FOLLOWING WAR'S LEAD

The politics of WAR are not to be underestimated: using leftist rhetoric and vague public statements on its goals, WAR has been very successful as an essentially fascist organization. WAR's influence on McAleer and the CLN is profound: McAleer himself approached a people of colour organization in Vancouver wrongly thinking they would follow a similar line on racial separation. His inquiries were flatly rejected. Along the lines of WAR's Third Positionist stance, a profile of McAleer in a local paper stated: "McAleer is part of a new breed of hate propagandists who reject labels of right and left in favour of a coalition of whites who want an Aryans-only nation. "I don't care what your politics are as long as race comes first," he said" (*The Province*, January 10/93). This reflects Metzger's own perspective: "We began to think a little broader and look into some of the left-wing positions, and we started evolving into something that can't be called right-wing. It can't be called Marxist..." (p. 170, James Ridgeway, *Blood in the Face*). It's this kind of public facade that makes the CLN potentially attractive to ignorant young Eurocanadians, who may go to the CLN at first not because it's necessarily fascist, but because it stands for "equal rights for whites."

In spite of the amount of publicity which has been focused on McAleer over the past years, from the various Human Rights Commission proceedings, to the court appearances, to the January 22/93 Anti-Metzger mobilization, to the Teale ban, to his arrest in Germany, McAleer's position as a movement leader remains fairly low. He has no local base, no cadre organization nor any real victories to bring to the fascist cause. Still, his consistency in organizing the Liberty Net and in fighting the Human Rights Commission tribunals has gained him some recognition in the extreme right, both nationally and internationally. He has contacts with other fascist organizations that have provided him with opportunities to develop and learn organizational skills. Foremost among these is his close and intimate connections to the Metzgers and WAR. Clearly, from the early beginnings of the Liberty Net, McAleer has proceeded cautiously, organizing slowly and, except for the Anti-Metzger defeat, never overestimating his own strengths. He has become more sophisticated since his early days as a rather frumpy looking skinhead, today appearing in suit and tie for the media and couching his white supremacist rhetoric in "soft" words and phrases. He has been able to keep the Liberty Net's public profile rather high, considering it's only real function remains a phone line with a recorded message. McAleer appears to be laying the foundation for a fascist organization that may form once the groundwork has been completed. That, however, is only speculation. At the moment (Summer/Fall 1994), the CLN still has its 'hateline' in operation, albeit in a very restrained and low-key manner. Recent messages have referred callers to weekly shows on short-wave radios, one being from Ernst Zundel in Toronto, and another from the fascist

National Alliance in the USA. It has also carried crude and simplistic viewpoints on the ecological affects of immigration (ie. immigrants put a greater strain on the forest because they want houses!), and similiar samples of brilliance.

Sources Used:

*Warren Kinsella, *Web of Hate; Inside Canada's Far Right Network*, HarperCollins 1994

*James Ridgeway, *Blood in the Face*, Thunder's Mouth Press 1990

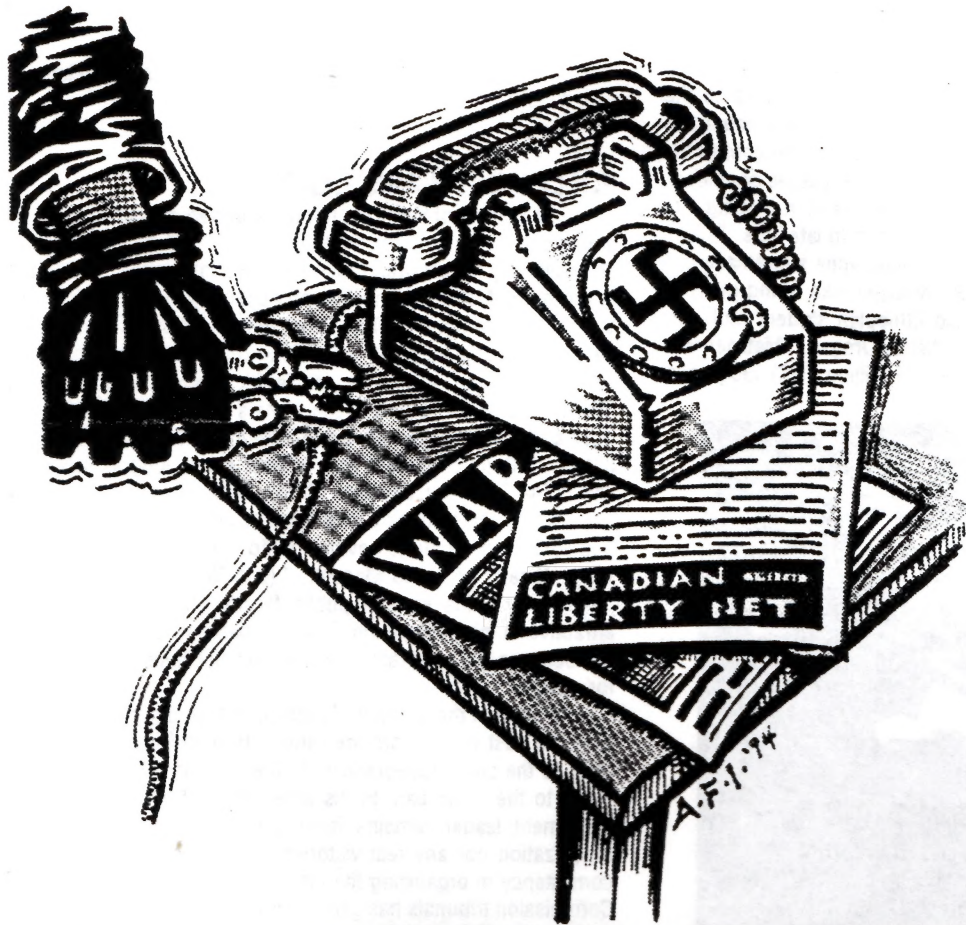
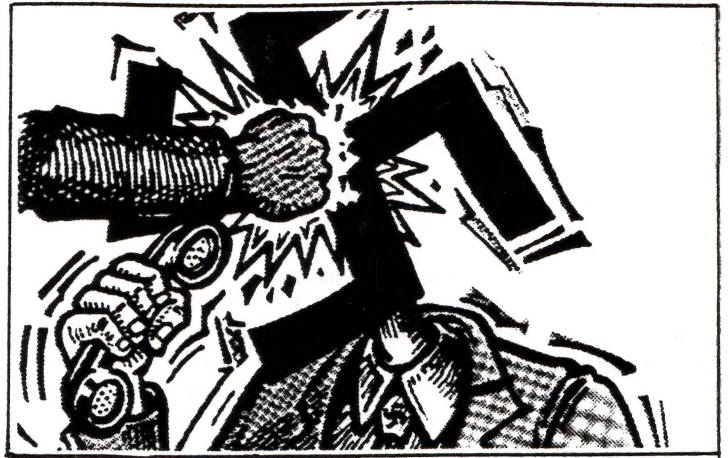
**The Vancouver Sun*

**The Province*

**XTRA! West*

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**Human Rights Report*, Published by the Canadian Human Rights Commission



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If you'd like more info on our work, please write to us. You can also help us in our work by sending us newsclippings (dated and sourced) as well as fascist material (stickers, leaflets etc.) that you might come across.

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